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AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE

RETAIL INVENTORY

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

1986

Surveillance Report EP-5-AR-88-2

Atlantic Region

Canada

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REPORT SERIES

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As well, we would like to thank all the retailers who took the time to review their handling/storage practices and submitted the inventory data on which this report is based.

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ABSTRACT

In late 1986 and early 1987 retailers of agricultural pesticides in Prince Edward Island were canvassed to determine the types and quantities of chemicals sold in 1986. This survey was a follow-up to a similar survey carried out in 1982. Information was collected by questionnaire, telephone canvassing, and direct interviews. The response rate was 87% of those businesses identified as being involved in pesticide sales.

Data quality in 1986 was good but potentially distorted by the significant number of retailers (30%) also wholesaling pesticides. This could have resulted in multiple reporting and over-estimation of total quantities. Data were adjusted, however, according to estimates by retailers of the ratio of retail to wholesale sales.

The information retrieved by this survey indicated an increase from 148 650 kilograms of pesticide active ingredient retailed in 1982 to 162 860 kilograms of pesticide active ingredient sold in 1986. Fungicides were the major chemical class retailed, representing 58% of the total. There was little change in proportions of retailed chemical groups (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) between 1982 and 1986. Within the herbicide group there was a notable decrease in use of phenoxy herbicides with a corresponding increase in use of triazine herbicides.

Most retailers (60%) stored some quantity of pesticide year round and such storage areas were usually locked (68%). Storage facilities were ventilated 69% of the time. Only a few of the facilities (19%) had been fitted with floor drains however, only 8% of the storage facilities had drains which emptied to a separate containment tank.

Twenty two percent of the retailers reported storing pesticides with animal feed. In 1986 77% of retailers had contingency plans, compared with 66% in 1982. There was a dramatic change in staff training with 92% of retail outlets indicating their staff had attended pesticide safety courses by 1986, compared with only 38% in 1982.

As in 1982 approximately half of the retailers reported no problem with pesticide or container disposal. Disposal of empty containers at the local landfills was used by 27% of retailers in 1986 compared to 47% in 1982. Unwanted pesticides or broken shipments were returned to the shipper by 41% of the retailers while only 8% retained pesticide for later disposal.

In general, pesticide handling awareness and safety had increased between 1982 and 1986. However, approximately 20-30% of retailers were not implementing appropriate safety practices and lacked adequate contingency plans.

SOMMAIRE

Vers la fin de 1986 et tôt en 1987, tout les détaillants de pesticides agricoles sur l'Ile-du-Prince-Edward ont été contactés afin de determiner les genres et les quantités de produits chimiques vendus en 1986. Cette étude faisait suite à une étude similaire conduite en 1982. L'étude a été menée par questionnaires, appels téléphoniques et entrevues sur place. Le taux de réponse des entreprises impliquées dans les ventes de pesticides a été de 87%.

La qualité des données pour 1986 était bonne tout en étant peut-être un peu faussée en raison du grand nombre de détaillants participant aussi dans la vente en gros de pesticides. Ceci peut resulter dans le reportage multiple et la sur-estimation des quantités totales. Cependant les données ont été ajustées en se basant sur les estimations des détaillants concernant le rapport vente au détail/vente en gros. Les données pour 1986 sont probablement de meilleure qualité que celle pour 1982 étant donné la plus grande prise de conscience démontrée par les détaillants concernant les pesticides.

L'information obtenue par cette étude indiquait une augmentation des ingrédients actifs composant les pesticides de 148 650 kilograms en 1982 à 162 860 kilogrammes vendus en 1986. Les ingrédients actifs représentent en moyenne 40-50% du poids d'un pesticide vendu au détail. Les fongicides étaient le goupe chimique le plus important représentant 58% du total. Il y avait peu de changement dans la proportion des groupe chimiques vendus entre 1982 et 1986. A l'intérieur du groupe des herbicides, une diminution marquée des herbicides phenoxy accompagnée d'une augmentation de l'utilisation des herbicides triazine a été notée.

Le plupart des détaillants (60%) entreposaient des pesticides à l'année longue. Ces magasins étaient plus souvent fermés à clé en 1986 (68%) quand 1982 (59%). Les aires d'entreposage en 1986 étaient aérées 69% du temps (par l'utilisation de ventilateurs dans la moitié des cas) mais seulement 19% avaient des systemes de drainage. Au total, seulement 8% des aires d'entreposages avaient des systemes de drainage menait à des aires de retention.

L'entreposage mixte de pesticides et de fourrages a été rapporté par 22% des détaillants. En 1986, 77% des détaillants avaient des plans d'urgence comparativement à 66% en 1982. 92% des points de vente au détail ont indiqué que leur personnel avait suivi des cours de sécurité sur les pesticides comparativement à seulement 38% en 1982.

Comme en 1982, la plupart des détaillants (50%) n'ont pas rapporté de problemes avec la disposition de contenants ou de pesticides. La disposition de contenants vides au site d'enfouissement local a été utilisée par 27% des détaillants en 1986 comparativement à 47% en 1982. Des marchandises endommagées ainsi que des pesticides non-voulus ont été retournés par 41% des détaillants alors que seulement 8% retenaient des pesticides afin de disposer de ceux-cis plus tard.

En général, une meilleure prise de conscience en ce qui concerne la manipulation de pesticides ainsi qu'une augmentation des considérations sécuritaires ont été observées entre 1982 et 1986. Certaines pratiques non-securitaires de même que de mauvaises planifications existent encore chez un-cinquième à un-tiers des détaillants.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Agricultural chemicals play a central role in food production practices in Prince Edward Island. An accurate assessment of the types and volumes of pesticides used and the methods by which they are managed in the province is necessary to develop effective long term strategies in chemical management.

An assessment of use patterns and retailer user storage and handling practices was carried out in 1982 under the auspices of Environmental Protection.

This report presents the results of a follow-up survey carried out in Prince Edward Island for the 1986 calendar year with a view to determining:

a) major existing retail sources in Prince Edward Island;

b) quantities of all pesticides sold in Prince Edward Island (excluding domestic products), based on both active ingredient (a.i.) and total product; and

c) storage and handling capabilities of the vendors operating in the province.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Questionnaire Design

A questionnaire was developed which was similar in format to the one used in 1982. Modifications were incorporated, in order to retrieve additional information on storage periods. In addition, the format was simplified to facilitate reporting.

The questionnaire is reproduced in the appendix .

2.2 Retailer Names

The following sources were used to develop a comprehensive list of retailers handling pesticides in Prince Edward Island:

a) the list of retailers contacted in the 1982 survey;

b) a list of retailers provided to Environmental Protection by the Prince Edward Island Department of Development;

c) a list of retailers and representatives supplied by Mr. David Thompson, Prince Edward Island representative of the Crop Protection Institute of Canada (C.P.I.C.);

d) a list of agricultural suppliers from the Prince Edward Island Telephone Directory (Yellow Pages).

A master list of Island retailers was then reviewed with the C.P.I.C. representative, in order to eliminate strictly domestic suppliers and firms no longer in business. There were 31 retailers identified as conducting significant retail pesticide business in the province.

2.3 Data Collection

Questionnaires were sent to each of the 31 retailers by registered mail in late November, 1986. The respondents were instructed to report on those products retailed in quantities in excess of 10 kilograms (kg) or 10 litres (l).

Most retailers were contacted by telephone to confirm receipt of the questionnaire and to make an appointment for a personal interview to review the completed questionnaire or assist in its completion. In most cases, the questionnaires were already completed when the interviewer arrived; however, some retailers required assistance in completing the forms. In a limited number of cases, the respondents indicated that the inventory data could not be readily assembled, and that they would be forwarding the information by mail.

During the interview, data were also requested on the relative amounts of wholesale versus retail sales.

2.4 Data Analyses

As in the 1982 inventory, chemical sales data were compiled according to PCP numbers, quantity of total product, and quantity of active ingredient. From this data, a summary of active ingredient quantity by general pesticide class was produced. The handling and storage information collected was summarized and compared with the previous data base.

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In general, cooperation from pesticide retailers on Prince Edward Island was very good. Fewer retailers were contacted in 1986 (29) than in 1982 (32), but there was a higher rate of return in this survey (85%) than in the previous survey (75%). This was a reflection of the fact that the 1982 retailers reporting no sales were not contacted in 1986. A summary of the returns completed is provided in Table 1. Partial returns are those which omitted quantities sold but included storage and handling information. For comparison, the 1982 summary of returns is also presented.

The distribution of retail outlets by county is presented in Table 2. Slightly over half of the retail outlets are located in Prince county with approximately one quarter each in Kings and Queens counties. The size distribution of retail outlets, based on numbers of reported items in stock, is shown in Table 3.

TABLE 1 RESPONSES BY PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PESTICIDE RETAILERS TO MAILED QUESTIONNAIRES

	1986		1982	
	NUMBER	% OF SAMPLE	NUMBER	% OF SAMPLE
Questionnaires Mailed	31		42	
Completed returns	23	74	24	57
Partial returns	4	13	4	10
No pesticides stocked	4	13	3	7
No response*	0	-	6	14

*No answer to letter or telephone, or no longer in business.

TABLE 2 DISTRIBUTION OF KNOWN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND RETAILERS BY COUNTY

COUNTY	NO. OF RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL RESPONSES
Kings	6	22
Queens	7	26
Prince	14	52
TOTAL	27	

TABLE 3 DISTRIBUTION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PESTICIDE RETAIL OUTLETS

(On the Basis of the Variety of Products Stocked)

NO. OF ITEMS IN STOCK	NO. OF OUTLETS	% (of 27 Responses)
0 - 10	7	26
11 - 20	8	30
21 - 50	4	15
51 - 100	6	22
100	2	7

3.1 Pesticide Sales

Data was subdivided into chemical classes of pesticides and totals for each class derived for comparison with 1982 values (Table 4). The percent of active ingredient was determined for each chemical by reference to product labels. Not all retailers were able to supply pest control product (PCP) numbers and therefore the specific concentration of active ingredient in these products could not be determined. In such cases it was assumed that the formulations stocked were the same as those reported by retailers who provided PCP numbers. Minor items (less than 10 kg retailed annually) and those for which chemical formulations were not readily obtainable (i.e. mixed or non-specified garden and domestic products) were omitted from totals. For convenience in developing active ingredient totals, formulation densities were assumed to be 1 kg/L.

In terms of general chemical classes, overall quantities of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides sold did not change substantially between 1982 and 1986. Herbicide sales increased somewhat (from 35 498 to 42 361 kg a.i.) whereas insecticide sales decreased (from 20 775 to 15 630 kg a.i.) and quantities of fungicides remained relatively unchanged (from 92 400 to 94 594 kg a.i.).

Within these categories some substantial changes were noted. Phenoxy herbicides showed a reduction from 18 430 kg a.i. in 1982 (52% of total herbicides) to 1 770 kg a.i. (4.2% of total in 1986) whereas triazines increased from 4 558 kg a.i. in 1982 (12.5%) to 14 407 kg a.i. (34% of total) in 1986. Urea derivatives and carbamates also showed an increase in volume.

All classes of insecticides except the pyrethroids showed a slight decrease in quantities retailed.

TABLE 4 SUMMARY OF PESTICIDE SALES BY MAJOR CHEMICAL CLASS

(Kilograms Active Ingredient)

	1986	1982
Herbicides		
Phenoxy	1,770	18,430
Triazine	14,407	4,558
Quaternary ammonium	11,662	9,130
Urea derivative	1,460	720
Carbamate	1,098	640
Other	11,964	2,020
TOTAL	42,361	35,498
Insecticides		
Chlorinated	143	2,320
Organophosphate	10,028	13,120
Carbamate	4,847	5,110
Pyrethroid	620	143
Other	2	62
TOTAL	15,640	20,755
Fungicides		
Carbamate	76,219	82,370
Phthalimide	250	8,430
Other	18,183	1,600
TOTAL	94,652	92,400
Miscellaneous		
Soil Sterilant	43	
Adjuvants	2,166	
Growth Regulators	6,054	
Acaricides, Miticides	1,119	
Inorganic	825	
Biological Control Agents	1	
TOTAL	10,208	
GRAND TOTAL	162,860	148,653

Groupings were as follows:

Herbicides:
phenoxy: 2,4,-D, 2,4-DB, dicamba, dichlorprop, MCPA mecoprop.

triazine: atrazine, cyanazine, hexazinone, metribuzin, prometryne, simazine.

Q. ammonium: diquat, difenzoquat, paraquat.

urea derivative: bromacil, chloroxuron, linuron, metobromuron, monolinuron, tebuthiuron, terbacil.

carbamate: butylate, cycloate, EPTC, metam-sodium, pebulate.

Insecticides:
chlorinated: chlordane, endosulfan, methoxychlor.

organophosphate: azinphos-methyl, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, dimethoate, disulfoton, fensulfothion, malathion, methamidophos, methidathion, mevinphos, oxydemeton-methyl, phorate, phosmet.

carbamate: aldicarb, carbaryl, carbofuran, methomyl, pirimicarb.

pyrethroid: fenvalerate, permethrin.

Fungicides:
carbamate: benomyl, ferbam, mancozeb, maneb, metiram, zineb.

phthalimide: captan.

Carbamate fungicides decreased from 82 370 kg a.i. (89% of total fungicides) in 1982 to 76 218 kg a.i. (80.6%) in 1986 and phthalimides from 8 430 (9.1%) in 1982 to 250 kg a.i. (0.2%) in 1986.

3.2 Data Quality

Assessing the pattern of agricultural pesticide sales in Prince Edward Island was complicated by difficulties in separating retail and wholesale data. Of the completed returns, 16 related to retail only operations, 3 to wholesale only operations and 7 to operations with a ratio of retail to wholesale business varying from 1:9 to 9:1.

For retailers who have some portion of wholesale business, the way in which retail and wholesale volumes were estimated was to assume that the overall retail/wholesale split of the business applied to individual pesticides. It was assumed that this provided a reasonably accurate estimate of retail and wholesale quantities, although it was very unlikely that every product would conform to this simple analysis.

It was judged that the retail values were most reflective of true end-use patterns in P.E.I. and therefore retail sales data were used to derive the totals presented in Table 4.

3.3 Storage, Handling, and Safety

In general, storage, handling, and safety practices were very similar in 1986 and 1982. The principal difference related to the participation of staff members in pesticide training courses. Relatively few courses were mentioned by respondents in 1982. Of these, the most frequently attended was one presented by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (N.S.A.C.) in Truro. The establishment of the Pesticide Dealership Course (required for vendor certification under provincial authority) resulted in a much higher percentage of trained respondents in 1986.

3.3.1 Periods of Storage

Data obtained on pesticide storage indicated that more than 60% of all retailers retained some product throughout the year. The period of highest storage was from May to August, with 89% stating July as the peak storage period. Only one retailer indicated storage of high volumes during the months of October to January.

3.3.2 Storage Facilities

The type of building used for pesticide storage varied, but was primarily (96%) of wooden or steel construction. A basement was present in 64% of these facilities.

Storage facilities were accessible to the public in 50% of the cases. Most (68%) were locked when unattended. A few storage areas (12%) were both accessible to the public and unlocked when unattended.

The types of ventilation and drainage found in pesticide storage facilities are summarized below:

VENTILATION AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM	% (of 26 responses)
Ventilation	
Fans	35
Windows/doors	35
None	30
Floor Drains:	
To holding tank	8
To sewer	3
To ground	8
None	81

Storage areas were dedicated to pesticides in 42% of the cases, and pesticides were segregated from food and feed in an additional 29%. Over half of respondents (57%) reported the further segregation into types of pesticides.

Where pesticides were stored with other goods, several retailers described the other items as paints including such things as paper, motor vehicles or lumber. In some cases (22%) pesticides were not stored separately from feed.

3.3.3 Safety and Handling

Most respondents had notified fire departments and/or health authorities that pesticides were stocked on the premises or had posted an emergency telephone number on the premises. These responses can be summarized as follows:

NOTIFICATION	% (of 26 responses)	
	FIRE DEPT.	HOSPITAL/HEALTH AUTHORITY
Response agency notified	56	44
Phone number on premises	20	20

Twenty percent (20%) of respondents stated that the fire department had a floor plan of the building and/or a list of chemicals. Eight percent (8%) had provided the same information to a hospital.

Chemical fire extinguishers were available in fewer retail pesticide storage areas in 1986 (81%), than in 1982 (100%).

A majority of respondents (62%) reported that some protective apparel was used when handling pesticides. Items mentioned most often were rubber gloves, boots, coveralls, and respirators (with annual replacement of respirators). This is summarized as follows:

PROTECTIVE APPAREL REPORTED	1982 %	1986 % (of 26 responses)
gloves	39	50
boots	27	6
respirator	19	28
coveralls, apron, coat	24	19
goggles	4	3
none	35	44

In most retail operations (92%) one or more staff members had attended some type of pesticide training course. Some respondents (80%) cited more than one course attended. This was a significant improvement over the 38% reported training in pesticide handling in 1982. The types of courses attended are summarized below:

TRAINING COURSE	% of positive responses (21)
P.E.I. Vendor Certification	52
Dangerous Goods	14
Dept. of Agriculture	10
Company	5
Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association	27

Seventy-seven percent of respondents reported some type of contingency plans for dealing with pesticide spills in 1986, compared to 66% in 1982. Spill responses are summarized below:

SPILL RESPONSE	% 1986 (20 responses)	1982
Wash to drain (holding tank)	5	5
Use absorbent*	50	91
Dyke spill	10	10
Bag spilled product (dry)	10	5

*Peat moss, sand, vermiculite, kitty litter, etc.

3.3.4 Disposal

Most respondents had no need to dispose of empty pesticide containers, since unused pesticides were not returned by farmers and broken shipments were never accepted. Responses are summarized below:

DISPOSAL OF EMPTY CONTAINERS	% (26 responses)
No need	62
Stored in building	4
Rinsed, disposed of on own farm	8
Landfilled	27
Burned	4

DISPOSAL OF UNWANTED PESTICIDE	
Not a problem	42
Given or sold to customer	24
Returned to supplier	41
Accepted a few returns from farmers	4
Taken to local dump	4

4.0 SUMMARY

Response was slightly better in 1986 (29 of 31 retailers) than in 1982 (32 of 42 retailers).

Total sales of pesticide as active ingredient were 162 860 kg a.i. in 1986 compared to 148 653 kg a.i. in 1982.

There were few shifts in retail sales of different classes between 1982 and 1986, however there were more significant changes within the categories. Phenoxy herbicides represented 12% of total retail sales in 1982 but only 1% of total retail sales in 1986. There was an increase in the use of triazine herbicides from 3% of total retail sales in 1982 to 9% in 1986. The other significant change was the near elimination of the use of phthalimide fungicides from 6% of total retail sales in 1982 to less than 0.2% of sales in 1986.

Most retailers (60%) stored some pesticide all year, however the greatest amounts were stored during the summer. Notification of an emergency response authority (generally the fire department) was undertaken by 50% of all retailers. In 20% of these notifications (11% of total) a floorplan and/or a list of chemicals was available to the fire department.

Most retailers (68%) locked their storage rooms. The availability of emergency telephone numbers (e.g. poison control centres) to staff increased from 57% of retailers in 1982 to 89% in 1986.

There was also an increase in the number of retailers whose staff had some training in safe pesticide handling. In 1986, 92% of retail outlets had staff with some training. This was an impressive increase from the 38% trained in 1982. Some type of contingency planning had been made by 77% of the responding retailers in 1986, up slightly from 66% in 1982.

Storage facilities were ventilated in 69% of the cases and 50% of these used fans. In situations where there were floor drains (19%), only 40% (8% of total) drained to a separate holding tank. The others drained to the town sewer or the ground, a great liability in the event of a spill.

In terms of storage with other substances, 22% of retailers reported the unsegregated storage of pesticides with feed.

In only two areas were there apparent decreases in pesticide accident preparedness. Fire extinguishers were reported to be available by 100% of the 1982 respondents, compared to only 81% in 1986. In addition, 91% of 1982 retailers reported having absorbent on hand, but only 50% of the 1986 retailers reported similar preparedness.

A majority of retailers canvassed in 1986 (62%) reported no requirement for pesticide disposal, greater than the 47% recorded in 1982. Forty-one percent of retailers disposed of old pesticide containers at landfills in 1982 and by 1986 this percentage was only 19%. For unwanted pesticides or broken shipments, there appeared to be more reliance on a return to the supplier. Local landfills received only 4% of the unwanted pesticides in 1986, with 8% held by the retailer for later disposal.

In general, the survey showed a greatly increased awareness of the hazards of handling and disposal of pesticides, however, approximately one-third of retailers still had no contingency plan for even minor spills.

APPENDIX
QUESTIONNAIRE

VENDOR QUESTIONNAIRE

CONFIDENTIAL WHEN COMPLETED

VENDOR/COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ TELEPHONE _____

MANAGER/SUPERVISOR'S NAME _____

RESPONDENT'S NAME (if not same as above) _____

LENGTH OF TIME IN PESTICIDE BUSINESS _____

MONTHS THAT PESTICIDES ARE STORED J F M A M J J A S O N D

MONTHS OF HIGHEST VOLUME J F M A M J J A S O N D

NOTIFICATION OF FIRE DEPT. _____

NOTIFICATION OF HOSPITAL OR HEALTH AUTHORITY _____

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS _____

STORAGE

ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC _____

TYPE OF BUILDING _____ BASEMENT _____

LOCKED WHEN UNATTENDED _____ ORDERLY STORAGE _____

VENTILATED _____ FLOOR DRAINS _____ LEADING TO _____

PESTICIDE STORAGE ONLY _____ SEGREGATION OF TYPES OF PESTICIDES _____

CHEMICAL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS _____

SPILL CONTAINMENT/CONTINGENCY PLANS _____

_____

PROTECTIVE APPAREL USED (RESPIRATOR, RUBBER BOOTS, RUBBER GLOVES, COAT, HAT)

_____

ANY STAFF MEMBER WITH PESTICIDE HANDLING TRAINING _____

DISPOSAL OF EMPTY CONTAINERS _____

DISPOSAL OF UNUSED PESTICIDE _____
(OR BROKEN SHIPMENTS)

PESTICIDE SALES

CONFIDENTIAL WHEN COMPLETED

TRADE NAME	PCP NO.	VOLUME DISTRIBUTED	SIZE OF CONTAINERS	MONTHS OF STORAGE (e.g. June, July, August)